

FEBRUARY
2021

United in Faith News

Why are we
Here?

We are to
be **God's**
hands,
feet and
voice
in the
world.



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+

February



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

From the desk of . . .

Pastor Carla

Did you know that Ash Wednesday (this year – February 17) is one of my favorite days to be a pastor? The experience of sharing ashes with people I know (or people I don't) is humbling and poignant. As I make the sign of the cross on the forehead of people I work and minister with, I am overwhelmed by the feeling of community, reminder of our flawed human nature, and sense of spiritual connection.

The words we share when marking someone with ashes are simple, but they remind us of hard truths about our mortality, our sinfulness, and our fallibility:

Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Ash Wednesday can be perceived as a day of sadness and repentance. Some people dislike Ash Wednesday services because they think of it as a really “downer” day. I think of it as a day of facing reality and truth. We face our communal reality as fallen creatures of God. God already knows this reality. God loves us through this reality. God holds us lovingly within and throughout this reality.

I hope you will take the opportunity to mark Ash Wednesday, by participating in our virtual Ash Wednesday service at 11am (on Facebook Live or YouTube Live). The video will be available on both Facebook and YouTube once the service ends. Or if you can't attend virtually, perhaps you might do your own version at home using the Worship Plan and tin of ashes from your **Lent to Go** packet (see Lent 2021 article for details on how to pick up a Lent To Go packet).

On Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge the reality of our mortality, but we also acknowledge God's invitation to new life and re-creation. We pray, in the words of the psalmist, “**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me**” (Psalm 51:10). Amen.

Pastor Carla

At
United in Faith,
The Guiding
Principles are:

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Jesus is
Lord and
Savior

+

Reflect
God's **Love**

+

Pray and
listen for God's
guidance

+

Continue to
strengthen
faith

+

Include **All**
in **God's**
work

+

Meet people
where they
are



The Girl Scouts have been very busy lately. There have been on-line and in-person meetings, making peace poles, doing crafts and making gift bags and delivering them to the seniors at the Norwegian Home. The girls have been VERY busy on their phones, texting and calling each other during this pandemic. Better to be safe than sorry. It's nice to hear that their comradery continues during these crazy times.



February 7
 February 7
 February 7
 February 17
 February 19
 February 20
 February 21

Samantha Cecala
 Doris Hemple
 Gerald LaCour, Jr.
 Dana Callgreen
 Megan Doyle
 Joyce Csapo
 Jackie Bratland

Caring for God's World

What will you commit to do this year to care for God's world?

SERVING IN WORSHIP: February 2021



LENT

PICK UP YOUR
 "LENT TO GO" PACKET
 BEFORE
 ASH WEDNESDAY

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| FEB. 7 | 9:30 AM On line Worship | 10:30 AM ZOOM Coffee Hour |
| FEB. 14 | 9:30 AM On line Worship | 10:30 AM ZOOM Coffee Hour 12:00 -2:00 Drive Up Communion |
| Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday | 11:00 AM Mid Week Virtual Worship | Mid Week Worship Video on Facebook & YouTube |
| FEB. 21 | 9:30 AM On line Worship | 10:30 AM ZOOM Coffee Hour |
| FEB. 24 | 11:00 AM Mid Week On line Worship | Mid Week Worship Video on Facebook & YouTube |
| FEB. 28 | 9:30 AM On line Worship | 10:30 AM ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING |

Lent 2021 at United in Faith

February 17th is Ash Wednesday, and we'll have a Virtual 11am Ash Wednesday service online. Virtual Midweek Lenten services will take place online at 11am on Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17, & 24. If you can't "attend" at 11 am the video will be available on Facebook and YouTube after.

This year, Pastor Carla is preparing LENT TO GO packets to assist in virtual worship from home. The Ash Wednesday and midweek services refer to these items (a candle, rock, ashes, sand, cross, and more), which can be used at home. If you have Internet access, you can access the service at 11am Wednesdays (or access the video later if you're busy then) at www.facebook.com/uiflc or from our UIFLC YouTube page. If you do not have Internet access, the packet will have what you need to do your own midweek at home. In addition to the Midweek Services (and supplies), the LENT TO GO packet will also include a daily devotional booklet for Lent.

By request, you can pick up a **LENT TO GO packet** at United in Faith (or have it dropped off if you are local and can't get out). These will be available at the same time as the UIF Annual Meeting Packets. [Information for Holy Week & Easter services will come later...Maundy Thursday – April 1; Good Friday – April 2; Easter – April 4.]

MIDWEEK LENTEN THEME - Created for Community

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that "we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation." Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of "repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love," Lent is also a time for deepening of community. During this pandemic time, our hearts have yearned for a deeper community that extends beyond the walls of the church and into our homes and hearts. Using readings from Mark's gospel, this Lenten worship series invites the assembly to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

LENT TO GO tie-in for Ash Wednesday: see the metal tin with ashes inside the LENT TO GO packet. If you choose to participate during the Ash Wednesday virtual service, you will use the ashes to mark your own forehead (or that of your family members) with the sign of the cross. The ashes in the tin have been mixed with oil for best use.

✝ **UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING** ✝ **UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

ANNUAL MEETING **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021** **@ 10:30 A.M. on ZOOM!**



All members of United in Faith are invited to the **ANNUAL MEETING** following the 9:30 A.M. on-line Worship Service.

This is an important meeting of our membership to review past activities, look to the future and to elect new Council members, Synod Voting Members and a Nominating Committee.

Please plan to attend via ZOOM meeting available on computer, tablet or call in.

BURYING THE ALLELUIA's:

We invite you to create an ALLELUIA at home (nothing fancy) and video tape yourself/your family "burying" it. You can close it into a book, put it under a table, close it up in a box, or symbolically bury it. Videos should be submitted to Pastor Carla (via email) by February 8th to be incorporated into Transfiguration Sunday's worship video (for February 14th).



United in Faith Lutheran Welcome Statement



United in Faith **openly welcomes and values every person who walks through our doors**, regardless of race, nationality and ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation & gender identity, marital status, social and economic situation, ability, cultural reality, & need.

Further, United in Faith supports efforts to share with all: God's gifts of love, acceptance, & grace; invites all people, **uniquely created by God**, to **experience the word of God, communion, & promise of the risen Christ**; and encourages all people to participate fully in the ministries of this congregation, which are based on its core values.

INSTRUCTIONS TO GET INTO THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Our 2021 United in Faith Annual Congregational meeting will be held virtually, via ZOOM on Sunday, February 28 at 10:30am. You can access the ZOOM meeting via computer, tablet, or phone. It is important that you can both hear and speak for this meeting (legally this is what participation entails). If you want to practice joining a ZOOM meeting, you can try it on any other Sunday at 10:30am for our Virtual Coffee Hour (same link and phone number), including February 14 or 21.

TO CONNECT BY PHONE: If you are connecting by phone, we will spend a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting to confirm who is at each phone number.

- 1) Dial 312 626 6799 You will hear: Welcome to Zoom. Enter your meeting ID, followed by # (pound).
- 2) Enter: 314512003# (it's the key to the right of '0') *This number is the same whether it's UIF Virtual Coffee Hour or Annual Meeting. You will hear: Enter your participant ID, followed by #. Otherwise, press #.
- 3) Press and release the # key. You will hear: Enter the meeting passcode, followed by #.
- 4) Enter: 459928# You will hear: You are in the meeting. There are ___ people in the meeting. You are muted. While in the meeting, you can enter the following commands: • To unmute yourself - *6 • To mute yourself - *6 • To vote - *9

TO CONNECT BY COMPUTER/TABLET/INTERNET: If you are connecting this way, please have your camera on for all voting. At the beginning of the meeting, we will confirm how many voting members are in your location. Use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/314512003?pwd=YklnQnlJN1Z6ckFYb2RVYkhmdEZFdz09>
You will enter the meeting muted. To unmute, tap the microphone icon on the bottom left of your Zoom screen. Tap again to mute. To toggle your camera on and off, tap the camera icon (bottom of screen, second from the left).

Who Me?? Yes You!

Reach Out to Someone Who Can't Come to Church Anymore!

It's *easy*...make a phone call, send a card even during this pandemic remember our home-bound. They are a part of our church family and miss being here. They want to stay in touch, to hear the latest news, to be 'seen' and named, to be remembered.

Monthly communion visits cannot be made at this time but additional contact is always appreciated.

You can find the list of homebound on the Prayer Weaving or see Pam for more information. Perhaps you know of someone not on the list who would also benefit from your communication. Do it! During this month of love - February - who wouldn't like to receive a Valentine!



United in Faith Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report – December, 2020

| | Twelve Months Ended <u>12/31/20</u> |
|---|---|
| <u>Unrestricted:</u> | |
| Income (excluding investment activity) | \$ 111,585 |
| Expenditures | <u>240,055</u> |
| Income over (under) expenditures | (128,470) |
| Investment Income and changes in market value | <u>34,449</u> |
| Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets | \$ (94,021) |
| <u>Educational Endowment:</u> | |
| Investment Income and changes in market value | 29,079 |
| Scholarships paid out | <u>(6,000)</u> |
| Increase (Decrease) in Educational net assets | \$ 23,079 |
| <u>Harriet Kurz Endowment:</u> | |
| Thrivent Investment income and changes in market value | 41,751 |
| ELCA Fund A Investment income and changes in market value | <u>32,949</u> |
| Increase (Decrease) in Harriet Kurz Endowment net assets | \$ 74,700 |
| <u>Increase (Decrease) in Total net assets</u> | <u>\$ 3,758</u> |

Comments:

2020 income from church operations is higher than spending by \$3,770 in December and lower by \$128,470 YTD without Special Gifts.

Income includes \$461,417 in estate gifts from:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Harriet Kurz - | \$375,000 in January |
| Anita Perske - | \$1,727 in January |
| Dorothy Goos - | \$3,989 in May |
| Shirley Anderson - | \$4,703 in June |
| Chester Plecinoga - | \$75,000 in June |
| Reverend Barthel - | \$729 in October |

General Investments returned a gain of \$8,506 for December & a gain of \$34,449 YTD.

Educational Investments returned a gain of \$9,571 for Dec. & a gain of \$29,079 YTD.

Harriet Kurz Endowment returned a gain of \$27,367 for Dec. & a gain of \$74,700 YTD

Total Expenses for twelve months are higher than income by \$128,470 but are \$30,595 under budget due to Tuckpointing, Garage Door Repair, Roof Repair, & Compressor replacement.

A \$3,000 donation was made in June to the Metro Chicago Synod's Covid-19 Emergency Fund.

FEBRUARY 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 31 9:30 AM On-Line Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Hour on ZOOM | 1 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 2 3:00 PM Bulletin Announcements Due 7:15 PM Women's AA - ZOOM meeting | 3 7:00 PM <i>Dear Church</i> book study - Zoom meeting | 4 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 5 7:30 AM Girl Scout cookie delivery 6:30 PM Men's AA - Fellowship Hall | 6 9:30 AM AI-Anon - ZOOM meeting 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |
| 7 EPIPHANY 7 9:30 AM On-Line Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Hour on ZOOM | 8 9:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Worship Planning ZOOM meeting | 9 3:00 PM Bulletin Announcements Due 7:15 PM Women's AA - ZOOM meeting 7:00 PM Church Health Team - ZOOM meeting | 10 7:00 PM <i>Dear Church</i> book study - Zoom meeting | 11 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 12 6:30 PM Men's AA - Fellowship Hall | 13 9:30 AM AI-Anon - ZOOM meeting 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |
| 14 TRANSFIGURATION 9:30 AM On-Line Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Hour on ZOOM 12:00-2:00 PM Drive-Up Communion | 15 9:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Mom's Group - ZOOM meeting | 16 3:00 PM Bulletin Announcements Due 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting - ZOOM meeting 7:15 PM Women's AA - ZOOM meeting | 17 11:00 AM ASH WEDNESDAY virtual worship live stream on Facebook or YouTube | 18 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 19 6:30 PM Men's AA - Fellowship Hall | 20 9:30 AM AI-Anon - ZOOM meeting 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |
| 21 LENT 1 9:30 AM On-Line Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Hour on ZOOM | 22 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 23 3:00 PM Bulletin Announcements Due 7:00 PM MIC Meeting - ZOOM Meeting 7:15 PM Women's AA - ZOOM meeting 7:00 PM MIC committee- ZOOM meeting | 24 11:00 AM Virtual MID WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP | 25 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 26 6:30 PM Men's AA - Fellowship Hall | 27 9:30 AM AI-Anon - ZOOM meeting 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |
| 28 LENT 2 9:30 AM On-Line Worship Service 10:30 AM ANNUAL MEETING on ZOOM  | 1 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 2 3:00 PM Bulletin Announcements Due 7:15 PM Women's AA - ZOOM meeting | 3 11:00 AM Virtual MID WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP | 4 9:00 AM Food Pantry | 5 6:30 PM Men's AA - Fellowship Hall | 6 9:30 AM AI-Anon - ZOOM meeting 4:00 PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous - ZOOM Meeting |

See page 5 of this newsletter or reference the letter that was sent to your home for instruction on how to log into the ANNUAL MEETING on February 28 after the 9:30 AM worship service.

February

Worship Schedule



| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Feb. 7th Epiphany 5 | 9:30 AM on-line Worship 10:30 AM ZOOM coffee hour |
| Feb. 14th Transfiguration | 9:30 AM on-line Worship 10:30 AM ZOOM coffee hour 12:00-2:00 PM Drive-Up Communion |
| Feb. 21st Epiphany 6 | 9:30 AM on-line Worship 10:30 AM ZOOM coffee hour |
| Feb. 28th Lent 2 | 9:30 AM - on line Worship 10:30 AM - ANNUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM Internet or phone in |



ASH WEDNESDAY, February 17, 2021
Live stream Worship Service at 11:00 am
on Facebook or YouTube

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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